Ministry of Government Relations

Plan for 2016-17

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations and Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

I am pleased to present the Operational Plan of the Ministry of Government Relations for 2016-17. While our province faces some new challenges as a result of worldwide economic conditions, Saskatchewan has a solid economic foundation on which to build. Government Direction and Budget for 2016-17 invests in people and infrastructure to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*, and initiates a government wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Our ministry works with a diverse range of partners at the municipal and community levels. Partnership is central to what we do: it enables us to deal collaboratively with the opportunities and challenges of growth, and together enhance the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Our ministry is committed to reporting on our progress in meeting the goals, strategies and actions in this plan, and we will do so in the ministry's 2016-17 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on Saskatchewan's foundational strengths, investing in needed infrastructure and in vital programs and services for the people of our province. The Government has made a simple yet significant commitment – to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong.* This year marks the beginning of a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective, efficient way possible.

This focus will advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2016-17 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

With responsibility for municipal relations, public safety, and First Nations, Métis and northern affairs, the ministry actively engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to: effectively plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth; provide leadership and direction so that integrated public safety services are available to communities and their residents; and support responsive and responsible government.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: be an enabling partner in building safe, healthy and vibrant communities

Ministry Goal

Saskatchewan communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies

Strategy

Continually improve provincial emergency preparedness, mitigation, interoperability, response and recovery

Key Actions

- Implement a province-wide public alerting system which will provide critical information on emergency events as they are occurring.
- Develop and implement a provincial disaster mitigation strategy to help identify, address and prioritize Saskatchewan disaster mitigation needs.
- Conduct a review of the government's Civil Service Reserve Team that supplements established emergency response efforts.
- Review and enhance emergency plans and infrastructure for communities in northern Saskatchewan.
- Facilitate the development of support services and/or mutual aid agreements for First Nations emergency services, including participation in the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunication Network, dispatching and data collection systems.

Strategy

Engage with and provide education and training to communities in order to improve community safety

Key Actions

- Support greater public safety in Saskatchewan communities by reviewing municipal emergency plans and advising on potential improvements.
- Work with municipalities to identify challenges and opportunities in responding to emergencies.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Environment to establish fire management and containment plans for northern communities.
- Work with partners to provide fire prevention programming and training for pre-school and elementary school students to increase fire safety awareness.

Performance Measure

Number of municipalities participating in emergency management data collection programs.

To improve accountability, mutual aid and provincial support concerning public safety, the ministry will collect and analyze the type and level of fire services available to residents in each Saskatchewan municipality, as well as the type and severity of incidents requiring those services, as per *The Fire Safety Act* and *The Emergency Planning Act*.

Ministry Goal

Capacity and infrastructure effectively meet the needs of communities and their growth

Strategy

Enhance the effectiveness and capacity of local governance

Key Actions

- Implement amendments to municipal legislation and regulations that position municipalities to better plan for and deal with growth and development issues and challenges.
- Partner with municipal associations and other parties to design and deliver workshops on general municipal administration to municipal officials.
- Partner with northern stakeholders including First Nations and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to pursue strategic infrastructure improvements that increase cost-effectiveness and enhance public safety.

Strategy

Provide long-term, predictable funding to municipalities to support provincial interests in municipal priorities, including municipal infrastructure

Key Actions

- Provide the equivalent of one full point of the Provincial Sales Tax to the municipal sector via municipal revenue sharing.
- Gather, review and analyze municipal data and information (e.g. municipal financial data) to inform decision-making that impacts provincial and local government.
- Partner with the federal government and the municipal sector to ensure prudent and effective investment of federal/provincial infrastructure funding.

Strategy

Enable and promote effective and safe building facilities and equipment

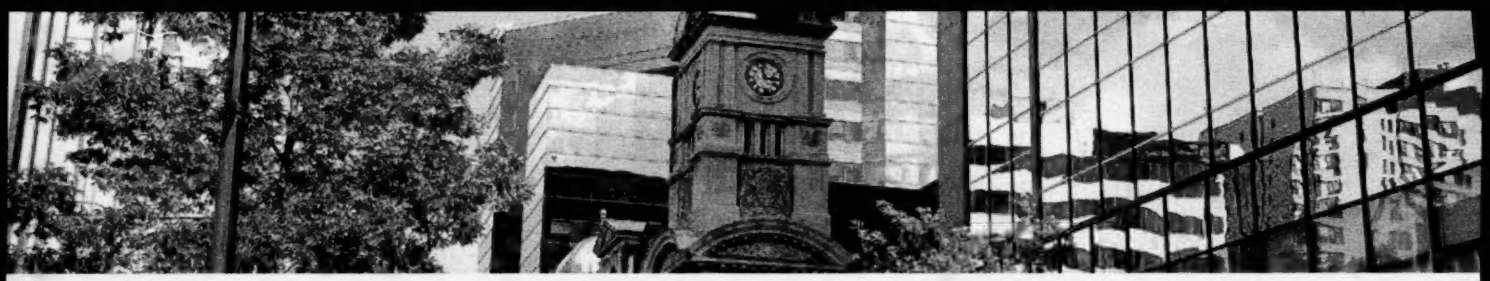
Key Action

- Pursue the harmonization of the building codes adoption process with other western provinces.

Performance Measures

Annual municipal funding.

Funding will be provided to municipalities through several programs to support provincial interests in municipal priorities, including municipal infrastructure and revenue sharing.



Percentage of population covered by building bylaws.

Municipalities with building bylaws in place represent 86.4 per cent of the province's population. Ongoing efforts by the ministry, as well as inter-ministry and agency co-ordination, will increase the implementation by municipalities of building bylaws approved under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority in support of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: build relationships and develop partnerships with and between municipalities, First Nations and Métis communities, and industry that advance government's agenda

Ministry Goal

Communities and individuals are engaged and well positioned to benefit from the opportunities and address the challenges of economic and population growth

Strategy

Enhance regional and municipal planning to address economic growth opportunities and challenges

Key Actions

- Lead a regional planning dialogue to discuss successes and challenges with planning commissions and other regional planning groups. Develop workshop or training resources based on the information gathered at the regional planning dialogue.
- Provide ongoing support and technical assistance to regional planning organizations to help improve their ability to support development and advance the provincial growth agenda.
- Coordinate the expansion of the Rapid Growth Communities team, enabling it to work with additional municipalities experiencing rapid growth.

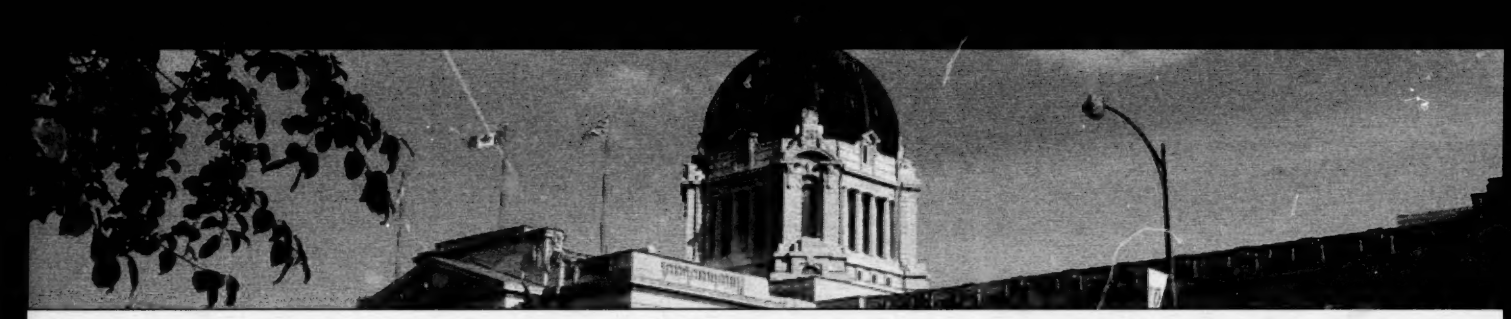
Performance Measures

Planning districts established.

The ministry encourages municipalities to engage in regional planning activities such as: establishing planning districts, helping build municipal sector capacity, mediating inter-municipal disputes and delivering cost-effective services and infrastructure. By March 31, 2017, two new planning districts will be established.

Percentage of the population living in municipalities with official community plans.

By March 31, 2017, 88 per cent of Saskatchewan citizens will live in a municipality that has an Official Community Plan.



Ministry Goal

Improve outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and northern communities

Strategy

Deliver programs and support the government in meeting its commitments that align with First Nations, Métis, and northern needs

Key Actions

- Coordinate intergovernmental Aboriginal relations on government's initiatives to improve outcomes for First Nations and Metis people.
- Collaborate with partners to advance the priorities of northern communities.

Performance Measure

Number of duty to consult workshops held to raise awareness of Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund.

Workshops help to build understanding of duty to consult processes and obligations, and strengthen relationships with First Nations and Métis communities.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people | Meeting the challenges of growth | Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people | **Delivering responsive and responsible government**

Strategic priority in support of the Ministry's mandate and the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Support responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Support municipal governance through enhancements to policy, legislation, and regulations

Strategy

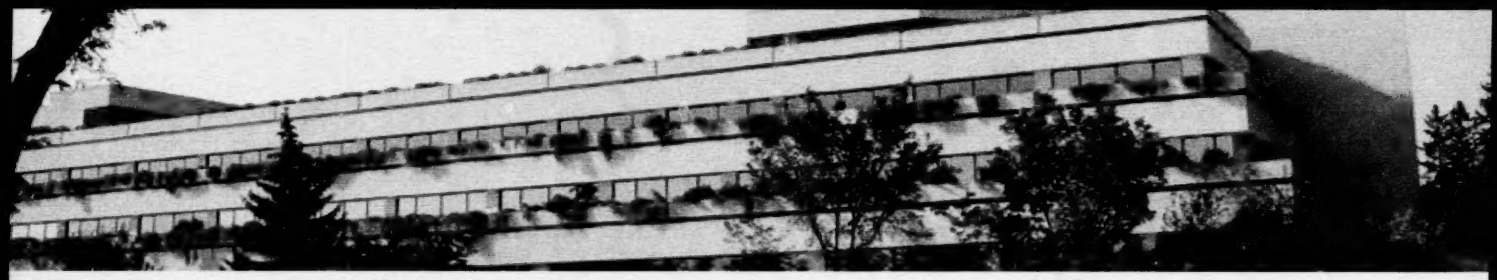
Ensure a fair and effective property tax regime

Key Action

- In preparation for the 2017 property tax revaluation, develop options for percentage of value and property class decisions.

Strategy

Legislative and regulatory changes are prepared to address provincial and ministry priorities and to respond to sector and public concerns



Key Actions

- Review and improve municipal and public safety legislation and regulations to meet the evolving needs of municipal, public safety, other stakeholders, the province and the public.
- Strategic amendments to municipal legislation and regulations that position municipalities to better plan for and deal with growth and development issues and challenges.

Ministry Goal

Programs and services are client-centered, cost effective and efficient

Strategy

Review and strengthen ministry programs and services in response to opportunities and public demand

Key Action

- Conduct program reviews for all ministry programs to ensure and enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.

Highlights

Key announcements from the Ministry of Government Relations' 2016-17 Budget include:

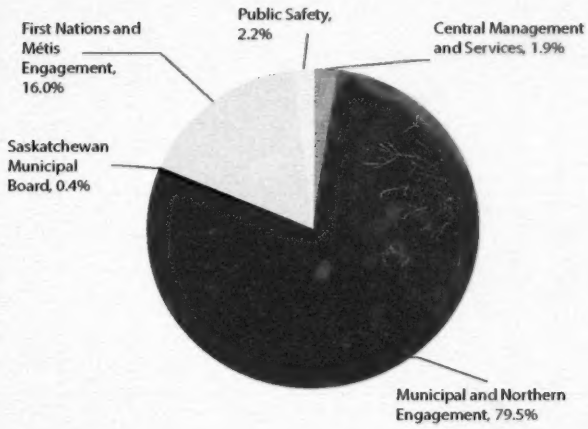
- $271.6 million for municipal revenue sharing funding, consisting of:
  - $174.6 million to urban municipalities;
  - $76.7 million to rural municipalities; and,
  - $20.3 million to northern municipalities.
- $100.3 million for municipal infrastructure programs, consisting of:
  - $30.2 million to meet project commitments under various infrastructure programs, including $28.4 million under the New Building Canada Fund reflecting the provincial and federal contributions;
  - $10.0 million to support Saskatoon's North Commuter Parkway Bridge; and,
  - $60.1 million in flow-through municipal infrastructure funding provided by the Gas Tax Program.
- $78.8 million for gaming agreements, consisting of:
  - $55.3 million for the First Nations Trust, which supports the First Nations Addictions and Rehabilitation Foundation, and distributes funding to First Nations communities in Saskatchewan;
  - $3.2 million for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, which supports Métis economic development; and,
  - $20.3 million for Community Development Corporations, which support social, economic and business development proposals located in communities surrounding Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority casinos.

Financial Summary

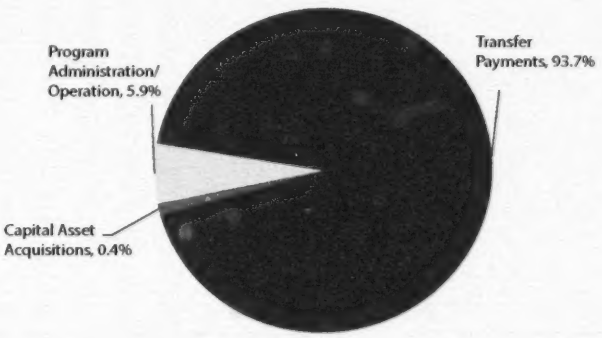
2016-17 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	9,676
First Nations and Métis Engagement	81,810
Municipal and Northern Engagement	405,713
Saskatchewan Municipal Board	1,849
Public Safety	11,216
Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network	---
Total Appropriation	**510,264**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(1,780)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	2,639
Total Expense	**511,123**
FTE Staff Complement	**244.1**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Subvote


First Nations and Métis Engagement, 16.0%
Public Safety, 2.2%
Central Management and Services, 1.9%
Saskatchewan Municipal Board, 0.4%
Municipal and Northern Engagement, 79.5%

Ministry Spending by Classification



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/government-relations